

Abolishing Prostitution IS NOT THE SAME AS Prohibiting Prostitution

When we talk about prostitution, LET'S BE CLEAR:

- It is not something one does, **but** something that is done to someone.
- Abolishing prostitution dignifies **more** than prohibiting it.
- Decriminalizing or legalizing it **worsens** conditions for women and girls.

How do we know this

- Thanks to International Human Rights Law instruments.
- Thanks to results and reports on legislation applied in different countries.



What is the prostitutorial system?⁵



Traffickers¹

He or she who recruits, transports, harbors or receives a person with the purpose of the exploitation of prostitution of others and other forms of sexual exploitation (such as pornography).



Pimps²

He or she who procures, entices or leads away, exploits, keeps or manages, lets or rents a place for the prostitution of others, even with the consent of that person.



The demand³

Mainly men who pay for sexual access to women and girls.



The supply⁴

Mainly women and girls sexually exploited in prostitution and pornography.



It is a criminal system that profits from sexually exploiting women and girls.

It imposes a sexual relationship coercing through money or debt.

It takes advantage of vulnerability and is abuse of power.

It perpetuates sexist stereotypes.

It is a symbol of subordination that makes women's inequality institutional.

It hampers the right women have conquered to say NO.

It is violence against women and girls and a violation of their human rights.

¹ Articles 1-3 United Nations Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others (1949)

² Article 3 Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2000)

³ Ibid Article 9.5

⁴ Article 6 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women -CEDAW (1979) and GR 35, 2017; Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (2002), UNODC Model Law (2009)

⁵ French law aimed at strengthening the fight against the prostitutorial system and providing support for prostituted persons. Coalition for the Abolition of Prostitution (2016)

How to combat the prostitutional system according to international law?

- Recognize that prostitution is incompatible with the dignity of the human being
- Punish the conducts of pimps and traffickers.
- Discourage the demand that fosters the exploitation of the prostitution of others.
- Protect and assist victims of these violations.

Let's clarify legislative models around the world:

	It criminalizes...	Results
<p>1 Abolish the prostitutional system⁶</p> <p>Measures that protect women from those who promote and profit from the prostitution of others.</p>	 <p>It criminalizes traffickers, pimps and the demand, but not the women.</p>	 <p>The number of prostituted women decreases sharply as well as associated crime.</p> <p>They have protection, access to a dignified life and men treat them equally.</p>
<p>2 Prohibit prostitution⁷</p> <p>Measures to prohibit the conducts of all actors, punishing women mostly.</p>	 <p>It criminalizes even women.</p>	 <p>It increases the underground demand for prostitution and pornography, as well as trafficking and pimping.</p>
<p>3 Decriminalize or legalize pimping⁸</p> <p>Measures that legalize the exploitation of the prostitution of others as “sex work” and pimping as “legitimate entrepreneurship”.</p>	 <p>It decriminalizes all, even pimps and traffickers.</p>	 <p>It sharply increases prostituted women, femicides and missing women, as well as the demand and associated crime.</p>

Don't be confused!
Use evidence above opinion.

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⁶ See the Report on the Prohibition of the Purchase of Sexual Services. An evaluation 1999-2008 (SOU 2010:49) for the Government of Sweden (better known as the Nordic Model)
⁷ See statistics in United States from the National Human Trafficking Hotline (2014-2018) and Characteristics of Suspected Human Trafficking Incidents, 2008-2010, US Department of Justice.
⁸ See the Report of the Act Regulating the Legal Situation of Prostitutes (Prostitution Law) of 2007 of the German government.